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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord God Almighty, Creator and sustainer of the universe, accept our praise and thanksgiving for all You have done for us. Father, on this anniversary of 9/11, continue to comfort those for whom this day rekindles a sense of sadness and loss. Console those whose lives are imprinted with the shocking images of that season of distress and grief. Today, may all citizens of this land incline their hearts to You in prayer as You release Your continuing mercies over us.

Lord, we acknowledge that in spite of challenges, we still have much for which to thank You. Thank You for our Senators, who daily give themselves to You and country. Thank You for family and friends and for loving care which surrounds us on every side. Above all, we thank You for Your gift of salvation and for the opportunities You have given us to honor You with our lives.

To You be glory forever. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JON TESTER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 11, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. TESTER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this morning, following any remarks of Senator MCCONNELL and myself, the Senate will immediately resume consideration of the Transportation Appropriations bill. There are no votes presently scheduled.

Last night, there were discussions about the possibility of the Republicans offering an amendment on the subject of Mexican trucks, which is the subject of the pending Dorgan amendment. We are all hopeful we can work something out on that this morning regarding the Dorgan amendment and the so-called alternative amendment to that.

It is my understanding Senator COBURN is going to arrive about 10:30 this morning to start offering amendments on problems he has with this legislation. As I mentioned last night, he tends not to speak for long periods of time, but he does have a number of amendments. He hasn't decided how many that will be. We hope we can proceed on that as quickly as possible.

At 12 noon today, the Senate will observe a moment of silence in commemoration of the sixth anniversary of the September 11 attack. Both the Re-

publican leader and I encourage Members to come to the floor for this observance.

Also, the Senate will recess from 12:30 to 2:15 for the regular party conference meetings.

Yesterday, I indicated that today would be a late night as we work toward completing this legislation. There is no reason we can't complete this bill tonight. If we complete it tonight, of course, there will be no votes tomorrow. As indicated, there would be no votes after 1 o'clock anyway, so we should do our best to complete this legislation tonight.

It could be a very late night, but we have two of our most competent, experienced legislators doing this bill—Senator MURRAY and Senator BOND—and we do hope we can move forward on this legislation.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following the moment of silence at noon, I ask unanimous consent that the two leaders be recognized for whatever time they may consume.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 1908

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand H.R. 1908 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The leader is correct. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1908) to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now object to any further proceedings.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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